



## City of Las Vegas

1700 N. Grand Avenue | Las Vegas, NM 87701 | T 505.454.1401 | [lasvegasnm.gov](http://lasvegasnm.gov)

**Mayor Louie A. Trujillo**

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER PROHIBITING ACCESS TO THE GALLINAS RIVERWALK**

WHEREAS, the Mayor thanks the residents and visitors of the City of Las Vegas ("City") for their cooperative efforts in restoring and cleaning up the Gallinas Riverwalk; and

WHEREAS, the City is a home rule municipality and the City of Las Vegas Municipal Charter, Article III, Section 3.02 recognizes the Mayor as head of the government for the City of Las Vegas for purposes of responding to civil emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Las Vegas ("City Council") issued Resolution 20-15 declaring a disaster declaration of health emergency in the City due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, and Resolution 20-15 authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to conduct emergency measures as may be appropriate to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare of the City's residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Gallinas Riverwalk is property of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has contracted with numerous contractors ("Contractors") for the restoration and clean up of the Gallinas River within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, the Contractors and members of the general public, including a number of children, have been exposed to threats of violence and biohazards, from the multitude of human feces, hypodermic needles, trash and other items left in the Gallinas Riverwalk, by squatters accessing and occupying the Gallinas Riverwalk;

WHEREAS, the restoration and clean up of the Gallinas Riverwalk is unable to proceed until the aforementioned threats and hazards cease to exist, and those who are squatting in the Gallinas Riverwalk are removed from the Gallinas Riverwalk;

WHEREAS, the overuse of the Gallinas Riverwalk by squatters, including without limitation camping, construction of temporary dwellings, fires, littering of items hazardous to human health, and other harmful activities, has resulted in significant environmental damage and an ever-increasing threat to the public health, safety and welfare of the City's resident and visitors as well as the health and welfare of the Gallinas Riverwalk environment;

WHEREAS, many of those who have been witnessed squatting in the Gallinas Riverwalk have not been observing the Covid-19 safety protocols as mandated by the New Mexico governor, and upon information and belief are engaging in the illegal use of heroin and methamphetamine;

**David Ulibarri**  
Councilor Ward 1

**Michael L. Montoya**  
Councilor Ward 2

**Elaine Rodriguez**  
Councilor Ward 3

**David G. Romero**  
Councilor Ward 4



## City of Las Vegas

1700 N. Grand Avenue | Las Vegas, NM 87701 | T 505.454.1401 | [lasvegasnm.gov](http://lasvegasnm.gov)

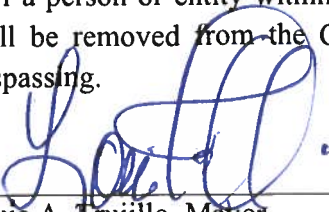
Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

WHEREAS, the population of the City includes a significant number of elderly persons and others who would be disproportionately, and likely fatally, affected by an outbreak and spread of Covid-19; and

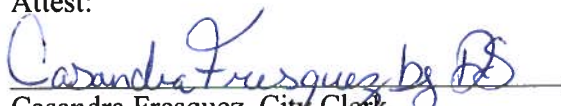
WHEREAS, the Mayor has determined that, based on the aforementioned recitals, this Executive Order is an emergency measure and that it is in the best interest of the City, the Gallinas Riverwalk environment, and the public health, safety and welfare of the City's residents and visitors to enact this Executive Order in the manner provided herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED**, by the duly elected and sworn Mayor of the City of Las Vegas this 21st day of September, 2020, the following Executive Order with the Recitals being incorporated herein by reference:

1. For purposes of this Executive Order "Gallinas Riverwalk" shall mean the entire Gallinas River basin area consisting of an area fifty (50) feet on either side of a line following the center of the Gallinas River along its meander downstream from Mills Avenue to the south limits of the City of Las Vegas.
2. No person or entity, other than those who have prior written approval of the City, shall, at any time, access, use, stay upon, camp, travel across or upon, squat, occupy, perform any activity within or otherwise be located in the Gallinas Riverwalk, with the sole exception that the general public may use the asphalt-paved trails that run parallel to the Gallinas River and the footbridges crossing the Gallinas River; and
3. This Executive Order shall become effective at midnight on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, and will remain in effect until midnight on December 31, 2020.
4. If a person or entity within the City limits fails to comply with this Executive Order, such person or entity shall be removed from the Gallinas Riverwalk, arrested and charged with public nuisance and/or criminal trespassing.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Louie A. Trujillo, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

David Ulibarri  
Councilor Ward 1

Michael L. Montoya  
Councilor Ward 2

Elaine Rodriguez  
Councilor Ward 3

David G. Romero  
Councilor Ward 4